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INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION HANDLING COMMITTEE
of the
UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SD&DS-MFP-M-7
10 January 1973

System Design and Development Subcommittee
Ad Hoc Panel on Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels
Minutes of the Seventh Meeting, 14 December 1972

Members Present

Chairman - Mr. Ronald N. Burkholder, Navy
CIA - [redacted] (Alternate)
DIA - [redacted]
Navy - Mr. Donald W. Noble (Alternate)
Secretary - Mr. Paul E. Sullivan, IHC/SS

Others Present

CIA

NSA

Navy - Miss Lunette F. Waddell

Approval of Minutes

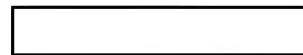
1. The minutes of the Sixth Meeting (SD&DS-MFP-M-6, 30 October 1972) were approved without change.

Discussion of Draft Report

2. The Chairman opened the discussion of the draft report which had been distributed under SD&DS-MFP-MM-5, 15 November 1972. He suggested that the review of the draft be carried out in two stages, reviewing first the data contained in the body of the report and then the Conclusions and Recommendations.

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S E C R E T [REDACTED]

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25 3. [REDACTED] and Mr. Noble presented data for updating and correcting the text, the charts and a footnote. These changes will be shown in the next draft of the report.

25 4. The review of the Conclusions in the draft elicited little comment except for [REDACTED] remark that the need for improvements in reporting cargo data should be more forcefully expressed.

5. With the exception of the recommendation for improving the format of shipping data there was little discussion of the Recommendations. Discussion of the recommended improvements in formatting however, occupied a major part of the meeting. The first improvement mentioned (making the line indicators mnemonic) was discussed briefly. Mr. Noble suggested that explicit recognition be given to the fact that line indicators must be restricted to three characters to minimize cost impact on existing systems. There appeared to be consensus on this point.

6. The second format improvement recommended (i.e., that cargo data be formatted separately from the Remarks lines) led to a far-ranging discussion of cargo reporting both as an element of shipping data and as part of the overall picture of international trade in commodities. At several points the discussion concerned chiefly with what is targeted for coverage and what is selected for reporting and it was necessary for the chairman to restate the purpose of the Ad Hoc Panel; i.e., formatting of information for computer processing, as distinguished from the purposes of the Intelligence Guidance Subcommittee of the SIGINT Committee where coverage and reporting tasks are laid on.

7. During the discussion, [REDACTED] emphasized the need for completeness in the reporting of cargo data. He said that he is aware that additional resources required to achieve completeness on cargoes and that those should be identified when the requirements for reporting are stated. He announced that SHIPPER, which was designed to keep track of cargoes to North Viet Nam, is now being used to keep track of wheat shipments; he also provided copies of a SHIPPER run and an index of commodities.

8. [REDACTED] discussed the differences in how much detail is required for various kinds of cargo; on strategic cargoes virtually all details are needed, but for consumer goods gross quantities and categories of cargo are enough. It was suggested that specifying such differences in detail in the reporting instructions might facilitate completeness in reporting.

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S E C R E T [REDACTED]

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25X 9. [] showed a sample of a Remarks entry in which cargo data was formatted line by line. Some of the analysts said that such an arrangement would facilitate extraction of cargo data.

25X 10. [] said that he plans to carry cargo data in retrievable form in []
25X [] He said he has received samples of retrievable cargo data to critique.

25X 11. [] agreed to prepare some alternate wording for parts of Conclusions and Recommendations and to give them to the executive secretary for inclusion in the draft.

12. The chairman said that after the next version of the draft is distributed, a meeting will be called if required. He expressed a hope, however, that it would not be necessary to meet again until we have a draft which the Ad Hoc Panel can approve for submission to the SD&DS.

[]
Executive Secretary

Distribution List

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